Howland Wood - Curatorial

White, Hugh W., Rev.
[Yencheng, Kiangsu, China]

1916 - 1933

YENCHENG STATION.
Opened September, 1911.
P. O. Address,
Yencheng, Kiangsu, China.
Freight and packages, address
Chinkiang, Kiangsu, China.

AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN MISSION
SOUTH

Rev. C. FRED. HANCOCK.
Mrs. C. FRED. HANCOCK.
Rev. HUGH W. WHITE.
Mrs. HUGH W. WHITE.

Yencheng, Kiangsu, China,
Feb. 23, /16.

Mr. Bauman L. Belden, Director,
Amer. Numismatic Society,
126th St., West of Broadway,
New York, U. S. A.

Dear Mr. Belden,

Glad to have my name on the rolls again. Also have enjoyed my Numismatists and the Report. I am encloising you a review of a vauable book just issued. You may have use for it in the Numismatist or otherwise. I find that in sending me back numbers of the Numismatist, two copies of 1914 were sent me by imstake for the same numbers of 1915. I am returning them, as I already had those numbers. If you have the corresponding ones for 1915, I would be glad if you would send them to Mr. Samuel Couling, Secretary of the N. C. Royal Asiatic Society, 12 Medhurst Road, Shanghai. This Society, of which I am a member, will keep my files while I am away.

I hope to sail for America by The Empress of Russia, Mar. 25th, landing at Vancouver, Apr. 9th. While in America I shall hope to visit the Society, if I have opportunity, and will be glad to be notified of any specially interesting occasions. My Address while there will be Bedford, Virginia. Will attend to fees while there.

Very Truly yours,

Hugh W. White

P. S. The missing numbers of 1915 are June & September

"THE STEWART LOCKHART COLLECTION OF CHINESE COPPER COINS."

Numismatists are under obligation to Sir Stewart Lockhart for ~~his~~ collection and ~~his~~ study of Chinese coins, to the North China Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society for publishing the results of his labors, and to Mr. Samuel Couling, of Shanghai, the efficient secretary of that society for ~~his~~ energy in initiating, and ~~his~~ labor in pushing to completion this valuable work.

The Chinese system of coinage; having, as it does, ten thousand varieties, presents the largest field for numismatic investigation in the world, and a field unique. Its extensive and well authenticated system of shaped coins has no rival. It differs from others in that it gave up both its gold standard and its silver standard. It gave up the custom of valuation by weight, and chose rather to measure the coins, ten to the linear foot, being the standard. Its early coins gave the place of issue; but not the date; later coins gave the dynastic title; but not the year. It adopted in the T'ang Dynasty, A. D. 618 fg. a form of legend, and has held this form, with but few exceptions, up to the immediate present. No head was ever used on its coins until Chao Er Feng tried to fool the Tibetans with a head of Kwang-hsü, looking as much as possible like the head of ~~the king of England~~ Victoria on the ~~British~~ Indian coins, he wished to displace. It has always strung its coins. It has successfully resisted all efforts to introduce larger denominations.

For the study of ~~this~~ such a curious coinage, this work gives one an excellent guide. To get these 2067 varieties beautifully illustrated, and fully described was not the work of a day. And this is put on the market for about five dollars gold.

The author's statements and views about the many Chinese writers on numismatics is not the least of his excellencies. This suggests, by the way, whether or not the science of numismatics should look for its birth-place in China? Even if we doubt the date of the Ch'ien Chih , which is ascribed to the sixth century, yet can the West produce a gendine numismatist by the time of Hung Tswen, who wrote the Ch'üan Chih in 1149? The author

depends chiefly on the Ku Ch'üan Hui, thus agreeing with the general opinion, that this is the most reliable authority on the subject. What a pity that it is out of print. The story is that when the owner of the plates died, the family being unable to administer the estate otherwise, divided up the (se) plates among the heirs.

The author throws much light on the terms used for coins in different ages: ch'ien, chin, ch'üan, pu, tao, pi. As to the coins called "pu" he judiciously rejects the common translation "cloth", based on the supposition that these coins represented cloth as a medium of circulation. Nor does he give unqualified assent to Hopkins' translation of "pu" as "spreading", supposing that "pu" indicates the spreading shape of the coin, and that the coin is pictorial of a spade or hoe; like the "spade" coins sometimes identified with this class. But he misses the obvious meaning, "circulating". Compare the common expression, "pu kao" "pu tao" &c. to publish abroad, to distribute. "Pu" simply means "currency." Now Lockhart clears up what has been an enigma, the origin of the shape of these coins. "Pu", as he says, signified money in circulation, and "ch'üan", funds held in reserve. He calls attention to the general resemblance between the ancient writing of "ch'üan" and these "pu" coins, and states that some writers say the coin got its form was made to resemble this character, the ancient writing of this "ch'üan" character, the simplest explanation yet given.

As to the other riddle; why the word "ch'üan", meaning "a spring of water" was used on coins in the sense of money, Lockhart presents the tempting view that "funds" was its primary, and "spring" its secondary meaning. But it is believed to be a pictograph, and the ancient forms certainly seem to picture a spring rather than money. Whichever is the secondary sense probably borrowed its form solely on a resemblance of sound according to the fifth canon of the "Six Systems of Forming Characters."

The author confirms the view that the round coins date from 1122 B.C., and and were contemporary with or prior to the barter coins. Indeed he makes less incredible the statements of the older Chinese numismatists, such as Lo Pi, of the Sung Dynasty, that coins date back to Fuh-hsi, 2953 B. C., and Shen

nung 1838. Can there be anything in this view? If so, may not numismatists in the West hope to uncover coins much older than those now known of?

The author's view that the "Pao Hwoa" coins, nos. 94, 95, 96 ~~in~~ are the earliest round coins in his collection differs from Ramsden's, who would give that honor to no. 97, the Yuan coin. As the latter differs from all ~~other~~ the other coins in having only one character and in having the hole round, more like the rings or seals from which these coins are probably derived, Ramsden's view seems the more probable.

A point of interest raised by the author is as to whether or not gold and silver coins have ever been issued as legal tender in China before the present era. Lockhart says no. He discredits the gold token issued by Liu Kwang Shih A. D. 1130 and 1131. Ramsden once wrote your correspondent that he knew of three ~~gold~~ Chinese gold coins in existence in as many different collections, not counting the Wang Mang coins (A. D. 9 fg.) with gold letters inlaid. Mr. J.F. S. Newman, of the Chinese Post Office claims to have a gold coin. But whether or not these coins are genuine needs proof. In the Annals of Soochow city there is record that in A. D. 1175, among the the property confiscated from one Yen Han Ku, was found so much gold bullion, so much gold leaf, and sixty "strings of gold coins". There is also record that in the Han Dynasty silver was coined for a brief period, but nothing further is known of the matter.

~~The translation of Ya sheng 厭勝 "lucky coins", will be questioned by some Chinese scholars, who read it "yen-sheng", the yen of aversion, and the sheng of multiplicity or commonness. This would make it "Yen-sheng", the disgusting multitude. The class includes charms, amulets, and other near-coins, which are hung around the necks of the children, but never used as coins.~~

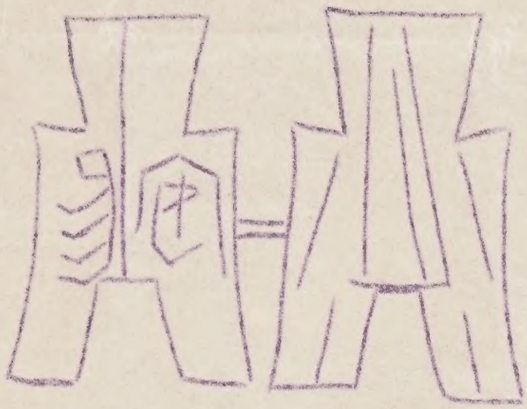
We amateurs are somewhat dumfounded to find that our "K'ai Yuan T'ung Pao" of A. D. 618 to 626 are by some read as "K'ai T'ung Yuan Pao". We had not suspected any kinship between the "yuan" of these coins and the "yuan pao" of silver sycee; nor did we know that Chinese currency began to "k'ai T'ung" i.e. "get civilized", until the last few years. We are loath to give up our K'ai Yuan friends, and are not sorry to see that ~~our~~ our author in his list still uses the familiar designation.

It is time now for Oriental numismatists to take up the study of Chinese coinage by dynasties and periods for more special investigation.

Hugh W. White.

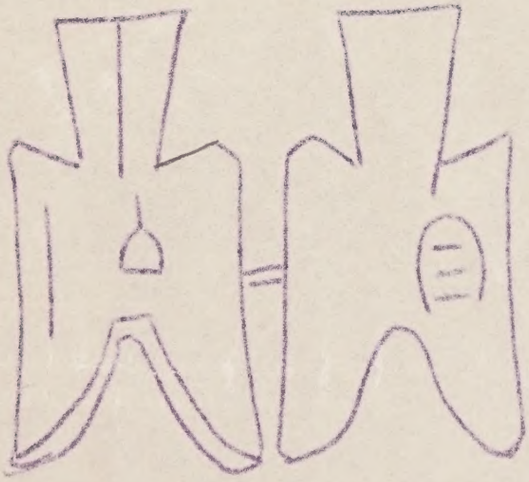
Yencheng, Kiangsu, China, Feb. 23, /16.

After Hereafter Bedford, Virginia.



"Pu" coin. with Chinese characters in center of the obverse.

Old forms of "ch'uan", par Chalfant, ~~Exx~~ "Early Chines Writing".



"Pu" coin.

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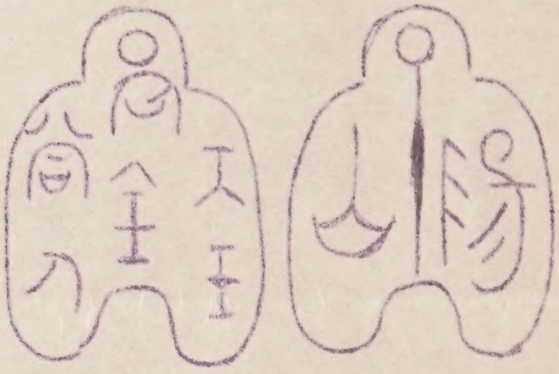
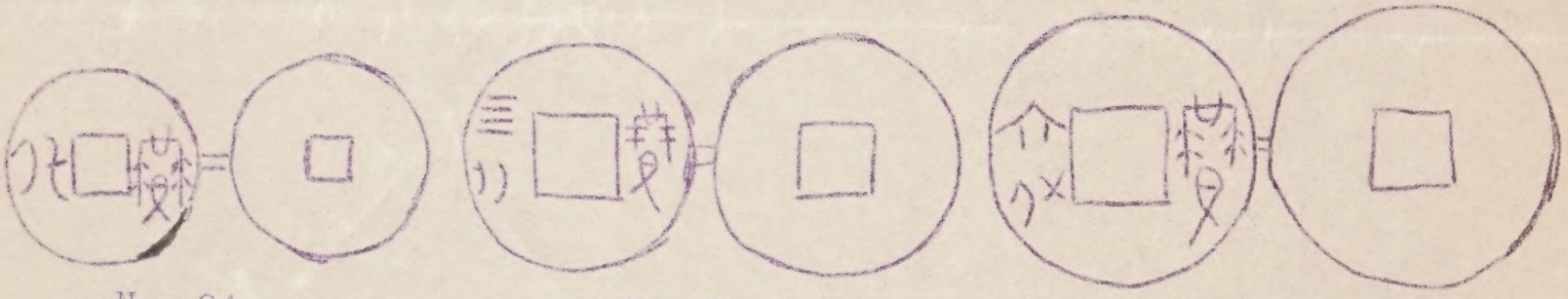


"Pu" coin.



No. 94

No. 95

No. 96

No. 97

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Rev. C. Fred. Hancock.
Mrs. C. Fred. Hancock.
Rev. Hugh W. White.
Mrs. Hugh W. White.

Yokohama, Japan,
Mar. 20th, /16.

Mr. Howland Wood,
c/o American Numismatic Society,
156 th St., New York,

Dear Mr. Wood,

In passing Yokohama today, I looked up Ramsden's collection of coins, and am amazed at the size and value of it. In my judgment, for Ori ental coins, its equal is not to be found in the world. There are estimated to be about thirty thousand coins, a large part of them Oriental. Some are very valuable. Indeed he himself gave four or five hundred yen each for several of them. I understand that they are for sale, Mr. Railey having the first choice, but that if not sold by time his son comes of age,---some six years yet---they will go either to the son or to the British Museum. I am writing to ask whether you think there is any prospect of their being kept in America. It looks like it ought to be done, if possible.

I hope while in the U. S. I may have the opportunity of meeting other numismatists. While I can collect only in a very small way, yet I am interested in the subject.

Very sincerely yours,

Hugh W. White.

c/o Rev. W. McC. White, D. D.,
Raleigh, North Carolina,
until the middle of May. Afterwards: Bedford, Virginia.

April 17, 1916.

Rev. Hugh W. White
c/o Rev. W. Mc C. White, D.D.,
Raleigh,
North Carolina.

My dear Sir:-

Your letter of March 30th at hand and I am very glad to hear what you have to say about the Ramsden collection. It is our ernest endeavor to get this collection for the Society, or have Mr. John Reilly get it. Mr. Reilly is our Treasurer and is especially interested in Chinese coins and has his collection and office at the Society.

We probably have already, one of the largest Chinese collection, at any rate the largest in this country, and larger than any public collection in Europe with the possible exception of St. Petersburg. One or two of the European public collections would appear, on a surface, to be much more complete than ours, but I have understood from Ramsden and others that about all of the great rarities are counterfeits.

I trust that while you are in this country that you can pay us a visit and we will show you what we have.

Very truly yours,

June 28th, 1916.

Rev. Hugh W. White,

Bedford, Va.

Dear Sir:-

Your letter of February 23rd to Mr. Nelson was turned over to Mr. Reilly as Mr. Nelson is no longer connected with the Society. Whether or not it was answered I do not know. We certainly should have a copy of Stewart Lockhart's new book. Have you a spare copy of this? If so, I would rather buy it from you than bother to send to China. At any rate, could we borrow your copy for a short while so as to see what it is like. Also let us know the best place in which it can be bought.

I wrote you some little time ago that we were negotiating to have the Hanson collection stay in this country. We have written to Hamden's heirs to send us this collection in the fall so we can look it over with a view to purchasing. We are hoping here to gradually get together the best collection of far eastern coins there is, and it is our earnest endeavor to make the most of them, and eventually become the leading experts and authorities on this subject. Although this is a big undertaking, we feel that unless we place such a goal in front of us we will accomplish nothing.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

Bedford, Virpinia,
July 11th, /16.

Mr. Howland Wood,
Amer. Numismatic Society,
Broadway at 156th St.,
New York,

Dear Mr. Wood,

As to the Stewart Lockhart book, I am sorry to say that I left my copy in China, thinking I would have more need of it there on my return. To buy a copy, you could write to either Kelly and Walsh, Shanghai, or The Royal Asiatic Society of North China, Shanghai. It is published by the latter, but sold by the former. I bought mine from the Society, and the secretary, Mr. Couling, give me rather better rates than Kelly and Walsh would have done, charging me only $6.50 silver. He is no longer secretary, and I do not know what the new secretary could do. This collection is, of course, not within a thousand miles of the Ramsden collection, as it contains only 2067 varieties, whereas Ramsden has nearly 30,000 . But the beauty of this is the cataloguing, and all the information Lockhart gives about coins, and the beautiful plates. The book is about 10 by 12 inches, on firm paper.

I am very glad indeed to know that there is a prospect of getting the Ramsden collection for this country. It is my belief from what I saw of it, that this collection would put us ahead of anything in the world on Eastern coins. Of course I had only a few hours there in Yokohama, but that was enough to give me some idea of the thoroughness of Ramsden's work, the extent of his collecting, the judgment and discrimination in selecting. The last few years of his life he gave up his consulship and devoted his whole time to his coins. For this work he built a vault adjoining his bedroom, and there he lived for his collection. The coins are still intact in this vault, neatly mounted, and everything in apple-pie order. Unfortunately he was cut short in the cataloguing, and the Executor, Mr. Holtz, who knew Ramsden's mind, thinks there is no collector in the East, who could continue the work, but that some one with the help of Ramsden's employees could do it.

I am interested in all that pertains to the subject, and sincerely hope the Society may be able to attain the magnificent end you mention. Per

sonally I am limited, both as to time, and as to funds, but do enough collecting and enough reading on the subject to try to keep myself informed.

I shall hope to be in New York sometime probably in the fall or winter, and to get an opportunity of visiting the building, seeing yourself, if you are there, or others of the membership.

Very sincerely yours,

HUGH W. WHITE
YENCHENG, CHINA
BEDFORD, VIRGINIA

YENCHENG STATION.
OPENED SEPTEMBER, 1911.
P. O. ADDRESS,
YENCHENG· KIANGSU, CHINA
FREIGHT AND PACKAGES ADDRESS,
CHINKIANG, KIANGSU, CHINA
N. B – MR. AND MRS WHITE'S ADDRESS
PROTEM···BEDFORD, VA.

AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN MISSION, SOUTH

REV AND MRS C FRED HANCOCK
REV. AND MRS. HUGH W. WHITE
DR. AND MRS. J. W. HEWETT
REV. AND MRS. C. H. SMITH

Bedford, Va.,

Aug. 7th. /16.

Mr. Howland Wood,

Broadway at 153th St.,

New York,

Dear Mr. Wood,

A friend of mine has fallen heir to the Jameison collection of Chinese porcelains, bronzes, pipes, beads &c. She is undecided what to do with them. I advised her strongly not to rush them on the market, and especially not to scatter them, but to preserve them intact, if a suitable purchaser available,, to sell if she wishes, or if not, to loan them to some good museum for preservation. The collection is estimated to be worth over $6000.00 Mexican, or some Six Thousand dollars gold. It is now in Shanghai. Do you know any one interested in such matters, who could give me advice as to how to handle it best? In case she loans it out, I do not suppose our Society would have use for it, would they? Do you suppose the duty would be heavy, if shipped? She has been informed that the pieces over a hundred years old would come in free as art exhibits. Do you know anything about that? Most of the valuable pieces are, of course, more than that age.

Sincerely yours,

Hugh W. White

August 25, 1916.

Rev. Hugh T. White

Bedford,

Virginia.

Dear Sir:-

Your letter came to hand just before I went on a short vacation, and it is only now that I have been able to attend to it.

Our Society could do nothing about this Jamaican Collection as we confine ourselves wholly to numismatics. The things are so much out of my line that I do not feel that I could advise you at all. It would, however, do no harm to write to the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Mass. as they have shown a great interest in Chinese things, and they might be a purchaser, or at any rate, could advise you better than I.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

Neuse, N. C., Apr. 3, '33

The Amer. Numismatic Society,

Mr. Reilly or Mr. Wood,

156th St, New York,

Dear Friends,

I have had no time now for some years to work on my coin collection, and am somewhat puzzled how to handle it. Have thought of selling through some of the agencies which advertise with you, but there would be no price now. My little collection would be no addition to all that you have. So I have decided that it will be more good for the science of numismatics and for all concerned to place them at Montreat, North Carolina, where hundreds of Presbyterians and others gather every summer. They will there be interesting and instructive to many.

You will remember that I left a few of my coins with you some years ago. Hope they are intact, and if you will let me know cost, would like to have them sent to me as soon as practicable, to place with the remainder of my collection.

My wife has one coin, which would probably be valuable, and which will not be deposited at Montreat. It is a gold quarter of a dollar, made about '49. Do you know them? What price is put on them?

I wonder if you ever got the Ramsden Collection listed?

Very sincerely yours,

Hugh W. White.

Neuse, N. C.

Hugh W White

May 3, 1933.

Rev.HH. W. White
Neuse, N. C.

Dear Rev. White:

Your letter of April 3rd remained unanswered as Mr. Reilly died two years ago and I have been in the hospital and no one else here knew anything about your coins. I am just back and I have gotten your coins out of storage and will have them packed up in a box to be sent to you. However, before doing this I would like to know just how you want them sent. They should go by express. If so, is just your name and Neuse, N. C. sufficient?

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator

Neuse, N. C., May 5,'33.

Dear Mr. Wood,

I am distressed to learn of Reilly's death, and hope you will soon be back to normal.

Thanks.Please express directó to Rev. S. M. Tenney, D.D, Curator Presb'n Historical Foundation, Montreat, N. C. If enclosed is not ~~xxffixix~~ sufficient, please let me know. After May 13, address me care Rev. E. L. Sanford, Moorestown, N. J.

Good-bhe. If you need me any time in China, just let me know. Address, After May 26, Yencheng, Kiangsu, China.

Cordially yours,

Hugh W. White.

Hugh W. White.

I met Reilly at Kuling just a few years ago. Looked O.K. then.

May 9, 1933.

Rev. Hugh W. White
Neuse, N. C.

Dear Rev. White:

Your letter at hand and I have directed our man to send the package by express prepaid to Rev. S. M. Tenney. If I have need I would be very glad to call on your services and I am inclined to think that I may have occasion as we probably will do more on Chinese coins than we have been doing.

Very truly yours,

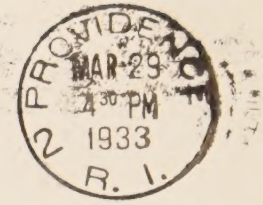
HW:JG

Curator

After May 6. 1933

Rev. Hugh N. White

Yencheng, Kiangsu,
China.



Mr. Howland Wood

American Numismatic Soc

156th St., west of Broad

New York City